

The Story of the Man Who Said No to Gold

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Written by Mansoor Ali Shah

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Chapter 1: Integrity in Public Office

Appointment to the Bayt al-Māl: A Mark of Trust

‘Amr ibn Dīnār (may Allah have mercy on him) reported that ‘Uthmān ibn ‘Affān (may Allah be pleased with him) appointed ‘Abd Allāh ibn Arqam (may Allah be pleased with him) as the administrator and supervisor of the Bayt al-Māl (State Treasury). This appointment reflected the Caliph’s trust in ‘Abd Allāh’s honesty and administrative capability, entrusting him with one of the most sensitive responsibilities in the early Islamic state.

Refusal of Monetary Reward: A Testament to Sincerity

When ‘Uthmān (may Allah be pleased with him) attempted to offer ‘Abd Allāh ibn Arqam (may Allah be pleased with him) a sum of three hundred thousand as a reward for his service, ‘Abd Allāh refused. His rejection of such a substantial amount highlighted his deep sincerity and detachment from material compensation for work he considered a religious duty.

‘Abd Allāh ibn Arqam:

"I have done this work for the sake of Allah."

A Second Offer: Consistent Principle

According to Mālik ibn Anas (may Allah have mercy on him), he learned that ‘Uthmān ibn ‘Affān (may Allah be pleased with him) also offered ‘Abd Allāh ibn Arqam (may Allah be pleased with him) one thousand as compensation on another occasion. Yet again, he declined, reiterating that his service was rendered purely for the sake of Allah.